

# **Board and City Council Joint Meeting (Thursday, November 13, 2014)**

*Generated by Shelley R Shelton on Tuesday, November 18, 2014*

## **Members present**

Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Taz Murray, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen

## **Staff Members present**

Keith Rittel, Superintendent; Ray Morgan, Asst. Supt., Stefanie Bryant, Business Administrator; Shelley Shelton, Executive Assistant, Mark Wheeler, Director of Facilities

## **Municipal Council members present**

Dave Sewell, Kim Santiago, Gary Garrett, Gary Winterton, Hal Miller, Kay Van Buren

Excused: Stephen Hales

## **Mayor's Office**

Mayor John Curtis, Wayne Parker, Chief Administrative Officer

## **City Representatives present**

Matt Taylor, Municipal Council Executive Director; Ryan Harvey, Political Analyst

## **Meeting called to order at 12:20 PM**

# **A. 12:00 p.m. Study Session**

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## **1. Welcome: Pres. Michelle Kaufusi**

Pres. Kaufusi thanked the City for their support of the bond.

## **2. Roll Call**

## **3. New School Construction Timeline**

Supt. Rittel opened the discussion, thanking the city council members for their "first" bond endorsement and the impact it had on the community.

Next steps:

- Sketch out the overall process for the board to discuss during the Nov. 18 study session. The district will receive guidance from bond counsel, USOE procurement and construction representatives and others to ensure things are done correctly.
- The district is moving into the full study and program development stage pending board approval.
- Facilities Director Mark Wheeler listed the next steps to be taken from his department:

1. Release, in coordination with Purchasing, a statement of interest and qualifications for architectural services for Provo High School. PHS will be bid separately from the elementary schools. It's anticipated the documents will be released within the next 30 days and the architect selection process would take a couple of months.

Once the architect is selected for Provo High, design and programming time would take about a year.

2. Release a statement of interest and qualifications for architects and contractors for elementary school designs.

- One architect will be selected, following the same procedures outlined above. To save money on architectural rendering and design, standards for the first elementary school will be designed and reused for the remaining elementary schools.
- Hogan Construction built Provo Peaks, Lakeview & Timpanogos, the three newest schools, but a

very competitive bidding climate still exists in Utah, so all bids will be reviewed.

3. The hope is to break ground on one or two elementary schools by summer of 2015.

Board Member McKay Jensen offered to convert the bond website to a construction comments site to allow patrons to share their ideas and suggestions. All input would be posted pending approval.

Supt. Rittel and Mr. Wheeler shared the following in response to questions from Board and Municipal Council members:

- A sub-page of the district's bond website will be created, allowing patrons to track construction activities and expenditures. Money saved by not paying maintenance costs on the old buildings will also be tracked on the website, as well as how those funds are subsequently allocated.
- Information will continue to be shared with principals to share with their communities.
- The design process for a project at Timpview was just begun. Input from the administration, department heads, athletic directors, etc., is collected first to gather ideas and suggestions early on. The same process will be followed prior to the construction of each new school, followed by community open houses at each school to share programming information, design concepts, etc.
  - Supt. Rittel responded that we must be careful about how much we open up the process for patron input. We have a fixed budget of between \$11 million and \$14 million per elementary school, and tight timelines. We will be hiring architects to guide us; taking input doesn't necessarily mean suggestions from the public would be followed.
- Building styles and construction methods will be discussed during the board's Dec. 9 executive session.

Provo City Chief Administrative Officer Wayne Parker indicated he had heard repeatedly that schools are tremendous assets. There is interest in schools being more accessible to low-income families after hours or on weekends to take advantage of technology resources.

## 4. Board Boundary Alignments: Councilman Gary Winterton

Councilman Winterton led the discussion, stating he had been busy fielding questions from patrons about the board boundary alignment and explaining the realignment process.

- Every ten years the City is required to look at council and board district boundary changes according to the census numbers. Districts must be balanced according to population numbers, not the percentage of people who vote.
- The State received the census numbers in January and consequently realigned congressional districts, county districts and precinct districts. Board boundaries are required to align with precinct boundaries, which can't be split.
- Notices were posted in the newspaper alerting patrons to the availability of an interactive online tool that allowed for the submission of input relevant to the council and board districts. There were originally approximately 25 maps for patrons to review with 6 final versions ultimately being brought to the board in a public meeting. The board unanimously recommended the "balanced" map submitted by a citizen, which met all of the stated objectives. The City subsequently adopted the balanced map.
- One of the objectives in adopting a map was to balance the board representation between Timpview and Provo High. Historically, 4-5 board members represented Timpview and 2 represented Provo High. The effort to meet that objective automatically eliminated numerous maps that maintained the imbalance of representation.
- The timeline for the board boundary realignment was very tight since the board wanted to have the boundaries set prior to the upcoming November election.
- There was a vetting process along with additional state requirements that districts are to be contiguous, precincts can not be divided, must be equally compact, etc. As a result, approximately 16 of the 25 maps were eliminated.
- Much of how the lines had to be drawn was handed to the city by the state.
- There are challenges with the map; recommended changes can be submitted to board members, who in turn would submit their recommended changes to the City.
- Matt Taylor will email the link to the interactive tool to President Kaufusi.
- Michelle will refer additional questions to Sen. Curt Bramble.
- It was recommended a succinct write-up about the process be posted on the board's website. Matt Taylor will email the write-up to Supt. Rittel.

Board member Taz Murray was excused 12:54 p.m.

## 5. SAGE Test Results: What is the District's Response to the *Daily Herald* Article?

Assistant Superintendent Ray Morgan stated he was pleased with the article. Talking points included the following:

1. Historically it was easy for the brightest students to get 100% on the CRT - there was a ceiling. The SAGE test establishes a completely new baseline and is adaptive: as students correctly answer questions the rigor of subsequent questions increases. Rigor is not increased if a question is answered incorrectly.
2. Results of the two types of tests can not be compared between this year and previous years.
3. The Superintendent has given schools the goal of exceeding state averages. Many of the Provo City schools have reached that goal in spite of the following statistics *that exceed state averages*:
  - Provo City School District has doubled the percentage of students with limited English proficiency as compared to the state percentages.
  - PCSD has 3% more special education students.
  - 9% more students in PCSD are economically disadvantaged.
  - The mobility rate in Provo is 4% higher.

Mr. Morgan reviewed the SAGE test raw scores in Math, Language Arts and Science as compared with state averages (see attached). Final scores, growth comparisons and school grades will be available to the district in December.

## 6. Promoting Provo

Councilman Dave Sewell asked for Board members' perspective on the best ways for the City to promote Provo as a good place to live and raise families.

- Member McKay Jensen: The community is learning how to have the conversation. Provo Forward, the Mayor's blog, the Provo Accelerated program provide many avenues for public input, which has a buoying effect on the community as a whole. This has made the mayor's office and the council more accessible than perhaps any other municipal council in Provo history. Citizens are able to access Facebook and other social media as well as council meeting minutes to read what discussions are taking place on the city government level. They then have the opportunity to get involved if they choose. Citizens and district employees are able to feel to a much greater extent that the district and city are "in this together."
- Member Julie Rash: New developments downtown appeal more to single and/or retired people. If the city intends to draw families into downtown housing, a point to consider is that there are possibly only two downtown area schools that would be absorbing an influx of elementary age kids. A big issue for families is child care. If families are living downtown but having to drive to another area for school or for child care, it defeats the purpose of downtown developments for families. Policy wise, it would be beneficial for the City to consider these concerns if the intent is to draw more families to downtown Provo.
- Supt. Keith Rittel: He's impressed with the how the relationship between the city and district has grown and strengthen. As the city and district deal with potential growth issues, it may be helpful to be proactive and form a joint committee to periodically discuss issues / share information on both practical and philosophical sides.

## 7. Other Items of Mutual Interest

Malissa Richardson, Miss Provo, is promoting an anti-pornography campaign. She gave the details of a presentation to be held at the Joseph Smith Bldg. Nov. 14 at 2:00 p.m. The presentation is designed to

help parents know how to talk about pornography with their kids. The average age of a child's first exposure to pornography is 11. Sponsors can help cover the \$800 per presentation cost in schools. Member Jensen stated time is limited for assembly scheduling this year; nearly everyone may want to schedule next year.

## **B. Adjourn**

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### **1. Motion to Adjourn**

I move we adjourn the study session.

Motion by Julie Rash, second by McKay Jensen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Michelle Kaufusi, Julie Rash, McKay Jensen, Marsha Judkins, Jim Pettersson, Shannon Poulsen

The meeting was adjourned 1:34 p.m.